

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-based method for adapting an enterprise planning model to include a strategic constraint of an enterprise, said method comprising:

selecting a primary goal of said enterprise planning model, said primary goal being represented by a primary objective function, said primary objective function depending upon a set of operational variables;

representing said strategic constraint by a constraint function, said constraint function depending upon a subset of said operational variables;

optimizing said primary objective function over a range of target values for said constraint function; and

determining, from said optimizing operation, an alteration of said primary objective function in response to each of said target values to obtain an economic cost of implementing said strategic constraint in said enterprise.

2. A computer-based method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said target values within said range of target values represent scenarios for said strategic constraint.

3. A computer-based method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

selecting scenarios for said strategic constraint; and

for each of said set of scenarios, providing a set of operational decisions for said operational variables that optimize said primary goal while concurrently satisfying said strategic constraint.

4. A computer-based method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising:

targeting, in response to said providing operation, one of said scenarios from said set of said scenarios to be realized within said enterprise; and

obtaining said set of operational decisions associated with said one of said scenarios.

5. A computer-based method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising:

representing said scenarios by said target values for said constraint function;

forming an effective objective function by combining said primary objective function and said constraint function, said effective objective function depending upon said set of operational variables; and

optimizing said effective objective function to yield values for said set of operational variables that optimize said objective function while concurrently satisfying said target values for said constraint function.

6. A computer-based method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said forming operation comprises selecting a range of weighting factors for said constraint function, said weighting factors adjusting an effect that said constraint function has on said effective objective function, and said optimizing operation optimizes said effective objective function for each of said weighting factors in said range.

7. A computer-based method as claimed in 1 wherein:
said selecting operation selects said primary goal that is limited by physical constraints of said enterprise planning model; and

said representing operation defines said strategic constraint to be non-limited by said physical constraints of said enterprise planning model.

8. A computer-based method as claimed in 1 wherein said representing operation defines said strategic constraint to be limited by physical constraints of said enterprise planning model.